

**City of Somerville, Health Department**  
**Report to Joint Public Health Board, Board of Health and Mayor's Office**  
**for December 2005**

**To Be Submitted January 10, 2006 to JPHB**

**Board of Health**

- Board members discussed and approved fee increases for location of tobacco, massage practitioners, massage establishments, body art practitioners, body art establishments, dumpster users and dumpster contractors.
- The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen wish to honor Dr. Osler with a citation at upcoming Board of Aldermen meeting
- Board members receive updates from Director on progress of Body Art Working Group to address the Apprenticeship Process in the Regulations. Stakeholders from tattoo businesses and other interested parties are meeting under the direction of the Director.
- Board members receive information on need to receive training in Incident Management. The training NIMS 700 and ICS 100 will be offered at Somerville Hospital in early 2006.

**Director's Updates**

- Director and Public Health Nurse take Personal Protective Equipment Training. Director attends EPA Communications Tabletop planning and Somerville scenario
- Director convenes Body Art Working Group meetings
- Director facilitates transitional leadership role with Active Living by Design and Healthy Eating by Design transitions
- Director participates in Immigrant Services Provider Group discussion on mental health
- Director facilitates meeting with Police Chief on Compliance Checks
- Director facilitates meeting with Personnel on hiring and retention of school nurses
- Director and PH Nurse attend Biowatch Regional Planning meeting
- Director participates in Food Protection Program audit
- Director facilitates meeting on Coaches and Youth Workers Training
- Director participates in UASI discussion on Operation Poseidon

**Health Inspectors**

**Sanitary Inspections**

- Responded to 40 complaints, 40 resolved
- Conducted 22 inspections of retail/food establishments, 16 reinspections
- Five new business inspections
- Nine first visits to potential new businesses
- Attended LEPC meeting
- Attended ICS training
- Prepared for and met with the State Auditor from the Food and Drug Administration
- Issued snow tickets

### **Housing Inspections**

- Responded to 64 complaints, 55 resolved
- Conducted 5 full inspections
- Responded to fire
- Issued snow tickets
- Met with Modern Pest Extermination for rodent control in the City of Somerville
- Collaborated with the Neighborhood Impact Team

### **Public Health Nursing**

- Attended Nursing Leadership meeting at Cambridge Health Alliance
- Attended Massachusetts Public Health Nurses Association meeting
- Completed Flu Clinic Statistics—1,926 shots given this flu season
- Held FluMist clinic at Homeless Coalition
- Attended BioWatch meeting
- Supervised Just-a-Start Moms project activities, reviewed data with shelter and students
- Met with CHNA 17 intern about minigrant process
- Attended Region 4B and UASI meetings
- Investigated 8 communicable disease cases
- Carried out DOT with 3 TB patients

### **School Nursing**

- School Nurses generate exclusion letters for students who are not in compliance with health mandates
- School nurses gathering data for asthma project for school physician
- School Nurse working with public health nurse to manage varicella case in school
- SNL continuing quality assurance project about vision
- SNL continues to attend PEP grant planning meetings
- SNL continues work on student health report cards
- SNL nurse interviewing candidates for vacant position, potential candidate moving forward in hiring process
- SNL continues to seek substitute nurses to fill roster
- SNL working with school physician to assess asthma data

### **Somerville Commission for Women**

- Somerville Domestic Violence Taskforce: the next meeting is pending in January. We have two dates set by the DA's Victims' Advocates office we hope will be the basis for a routine monthly meeting.
- Walking: The Mayor requested that Sonja attend the Traffic and Pedestrian Task Force to represent women (especially seniors and parents with small children). The builds on the data received from Somerville women that pedestrian safety is among the top priorities.
- TADA: The teens are holding recruiting events this week and next to raise awareness of the group including information tables and a pizza party. The teens will finalize

the new program design of TADA on Jan. 10. The pre-proposal to the Head Master of SHS will be submitted for his review and suggestions in preparation of submitting a proposal to the Curriculum Committee for a classroom-based, credited TADA program.

- Commissioners: there are four pending Women's Commissioners for the Board of Alderman to approve.

TV Show: the Women's Commission has approved plans to start a monthly tv show based on Bonny Carroll's "Raising Families" format.`

### **Somerville Cares About Prevention**

- Seven SCAP youth and staff participated in MADD's regional Sticker Shock press conference in Medford.
- Met with Susan Callahan, President of the Kiwanis, to look at levels of collaboration.
- Attended the Metrowest DPH providers meeting.
- Met with Greg Miller, Director of the Suicide Prevention Coalition along with staff to discuss future collaboration efforts.
- Participated in the Cambridge Prevention Coalition's Environmental Strategies Committee meeting to review their planning matrix.
- Conducted a Sticker Shock campaign at one of our licensees.
- With the assistance of the RCHC members of the Environmental Strategies Sub-Committee worked on a CMCA logic model.
- Participated in the quarterly meeting of CMCA coalitions in Watertown.
- Prepared for our Annual Meeting to be held in January.

### **Tobacco Control**

#### Youth Access

- Tobacco retailer compliance checks in:
  - Somerville (Checked: 23, Sale: 0) Current rate of sale FY05: 3.7%
  - Chelsea (Checked: 22, Sale: 0) Current rate of sale FY05: 2.2%
  - Everett (Checked: 18, Sale: 0) Current rate of sale FY05: 0.5%
  - Revere (Checked: 23, Sale: 0) Current rate of sale FY05: 2.2%
- Tobacco retailer educational inspections in:
  - Everett (Visited: 10, Signage Violations: 6, warnings: 6)
  - Revere (Visited: 90, Signage Violations: 45, warnings: 45)
- Educational Mailings
  - Somerville: 124 pieces
  - Cambridge: 145 pieces
  - Chelsea: 59 pieces
  - Everett: 58 pieces
  - Revere: 90 pieces
  - 476 pieces
- Retailer Training:
  - Chelsea/Revere (12/20/05, 6 attendees)
- Youth Training (Compliance Checks): 12/27/05, 5 attendees

- Media Coverage:
  - The Somerville News (12/07/05, coverage of success of Youth Access activities)

### ETS

- Inspections
  - Revere (Visited: 90, Signage Violations: 14, Warnings: 14)
  - Everett (Visited: 10, Signage Violations: 2, Warnings: 2)
  - Chelsea (Visited: 15, Signage Violations: 1, Warning: 1)
  - Somerville (Visited: 19, Signage Violations: 0)
    - Smoking Complaints: 1, Violations: 0)

### **Trauma Response Network**

- Chaired 4 TRN Leadership Mtgs. 12/5, 12/12, 12/20, 12/27
- Attended IC3 meeting on collaboration 12/6
- Met with Coordinator of MA Coalition on Suicide Prevention 12/7
- Met with new Somerville Health Agenda Coordinator to discuss how we'll work together 12/7
- Planned program for Practice Session/Training with Officer Costa 12/7
- Attended Suicide and Opiate Surveillance Team Meeting 12/9
- Facilitated training/practice session in PTSO 12/13
- Facilitated and attended meeting of Youth Council Advisory Board
- Performed outreach to community caregivers to participate in Suicide Survivor's Support Group – learned that grant had been funded – coordinated first meeting for the planning group in early January
- Performed advocacy for family affected by trauma of last year via several community agencies and mayor's office
- Finalize trauma brochure for printing
- Performed reconn re: 2 OD deaths of Somerville-affiliated young people – a 22 year old Medford female, and 27 year old male
- Attended Youth Worker/Coaches Conversations meetings to continue work on funded grant - 12/20, as well as continued independent work related to this training
- Attended SCC Mapping Project at Somerville Library 12/21
- Attended Annual Meeting of SCC 12/13
- Performed PTSO intervention with CTRF at a Boston school for children with special needs re: murder that affected this school community 12/22
- Attended 2 meetings at CTRF to coordinate 12/13, 12/20
- Met with TRN community member to network 12/9